

CREATE is a vibrant environment centre owned and managed by Bristol City Council. The Centre hosts regular events and exhibitions and features a demonstration Ecohome. CREATE is home to several environmental organisations as well as the council's Sustainability teams. For further information contact:

CREATE Centre  
Smeaton Road  
Bristol BS1 6XN  
Tel: (0117) 925 0505  
[www.bristol.gov.uk](http://www.bristol.gov.uk)

Avon Wildlife Trust is the largest local membership organisation dedicated to promoting and protecting wildlife by creating wildlife havens, acting as a wildlife champion, inspiring people and encouraging sustainable ways of living. The Trust is supported by over 14,000 local members and manages 38 nature reserves. For further information contact:

Avon Wildlife Trust  
32 Jacobs Wells Road  
Bristol BS8 1DR  
Tel: (0117) 917 7270  
[www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

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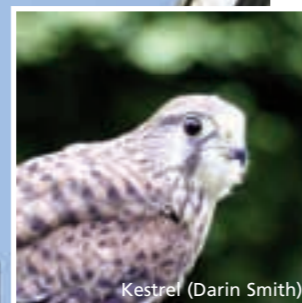
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the other side. This is a fast road with traffic approaching from your right. Keep left of the large recycling bin where there is a 1.25m width restriction, and move to the dropped kerb after 10m. Cross the road where the traffic also approaches from the right, to a reduced kerb with a lip, and immediately turn right with a width restriction of 1m on a slight incline. 8 There are some ornamental trees around the car park including the non-native but very fine silver maple.

Weave your way through the traffic-controlling boulders and turn left along the 2.6m wide pavement of repaired tarmac under the flyover. After 40m there are textured paving stones and then a reduced kerb. Cross the final road (where the traffic approaches from the left) to another reduced kerb with textured paving stones and onto a gradually inclined tarmac



Kestrel hovering (J Dearbergh)



Kestrel (Darin Smith)

pavement with a width restriction of 1.7m and a point restriction of 1m width. Move onto paving stones and continue to a reduced kerb with textured paving after 15m.

As you are now passing CREATE, you could stop for a coffee at this point! Or head for the railway bridge across the river. 9 You may be lucky enough to see or hear the kestrels, which frequent this area.

Continue along the tarmac road and turn right onto the bridge. There is a point restriction here of 1.6m. 10 Wall rue and maidenhair spleenwort grow on the right hand wall at the end of the bridge and many other plants have found footholds on the edges of the bridge, including polypody fern. This is a good point to observe the river. Even if it looks quiet, when the tide is out have a look at the myriad of footprints in the mud! Mallard ducks and gulls are often loafing in this area.

At the end of the bridge there is a lip down onto a muddy track along the old railway line with compacted gravel and a slight incline. After 60m there is loose coarse gravel on an uneven surface. 11 During summer, look for vervain, herb Robert, agrimony, black medick and white dead nettle. The shelter provided by railway line vegetation makes it popular with many different insects, including butterflies. The fine brown shield bug *Coreus marginatus* "sunbathes" in late spring, and look out for dark bush cricket in late summer.

After another 60m move onto damp grassland and head right to walk along the hedge, where there is a slight incline. It can be muddy here

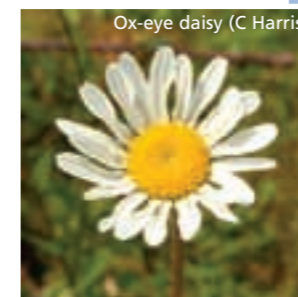


Bumble bee on bramble (J Dearbergh)



Old railway line (J Dearbergh)

with exposed tree roots. 12 The trees are part of a varied hedgerow, which includes the opportunity to get to know field maple and to compare the leaves of elder and ash, at one place growing side by side. Eventually you come to a row of tall herbs including hemp agrimony, hogweed, nettles and mugwort. Plants like this provide food and shelter for many interesting insects such as hoverflies and beetles. To your left is a large area of allotments. In urban areas allotments are very important for wildlife: listen to how many different bird songs you can hear in the spring. Such places are also refuges for slow-worms and small mammals.



Ox-eye daisy (C Harris)

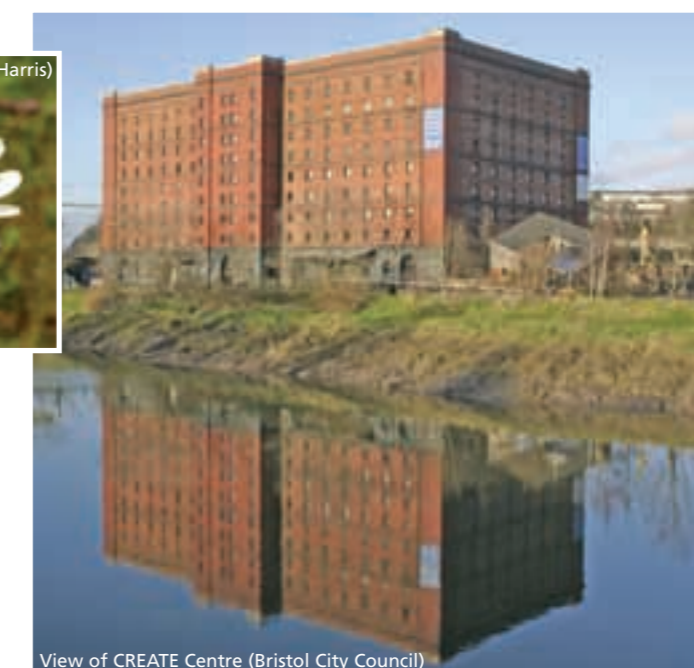
After 175m there is a 2m wide tarmac path and you can either turn right to follow this back towards the river or continue across the grass past the railway bridge. 13 Here are two fine trees, a Norway maple and a lime tree. Then turn right and back along the tarmac path and have a look at the interesting River Avon information board on the grass beside the

path. If you do not visit the trees, you will come to a T junction with the tarmac path where you turn left to look at the same information board.

Return along the river to the railway bridge, keeping right of the bridge support.

14 There is a row of fine horse chestnut trees with plenty of conkers in the autumn. There is a slight lip and a 40m steady incline onto the railway bridge. After 120m move onto the tarmac pavement via the reduced kerb and textured slabs. Have a look at the Butterfly Junction information board, where local people manage a reserve. After 25m the tarmac changes to textured paving.

You are now back at CREATE, where the café is open Mon-Fri 08.30hrs to 14.00hrs (breakfast served until 11.00hrs).



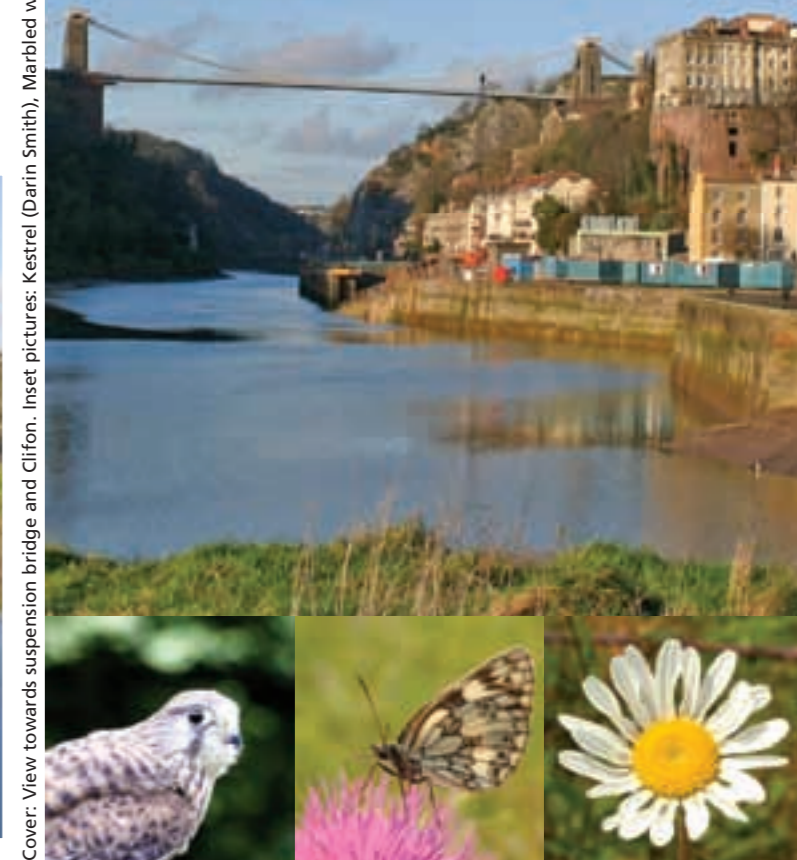
View of CREATE Centre (Bristol City Council)



# Wildlife in the City

a short walk around CREATE

Cover: View towards suspension bridge and Clifton. Inset pictures: Kestrel (Darin Smith), Marbled white butterfly (Chris Harris), ox-eye daisy (Chris Harris)



# Wildlife in the City

The area around the CREATE Centre is home to a rich diversity of wildlife. Standing on land formed from spoil when the Cumberland Basin was excavated, the Centre makes an ideal starting point for exploring the many different habitats that surround it.

This 1.5km trail will take you past saltmarsh, the tidal River Avon, old harbour walls, scrub and hedgerow. It is possible to complete the walk in 30 minutes, but we recommend that you take a couple of hours to enjoy the varied wildlife, from wintering wading birds to summertime flowers and butterflies.

Please take care because it is a waterside area and there are a couple of busy roads to cross.

*Access details are given in green italic type.*



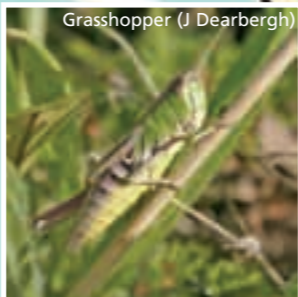
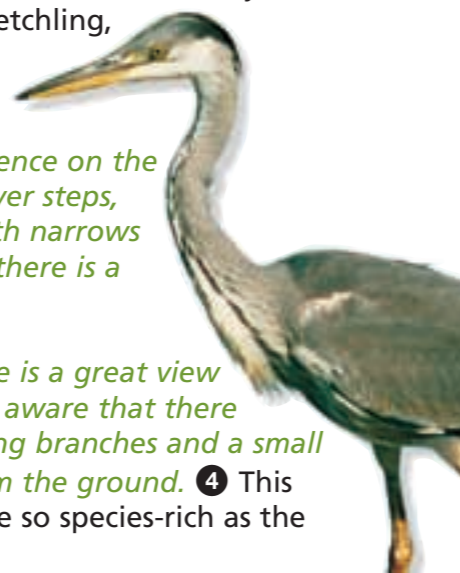
View towards suspension bridge and Clifton (J Dearbergh)

**START** At the bottom of the 1.8m wide CREATE Centre ramp, turn right and walk on the road alongside the river bank. After 52m there is a 10cm high speed bump. ❶ Have a look at the salt-tolerant species along the tidal saltmarsh: blue-green sea couch grass and sea aster (rayless and rayed).

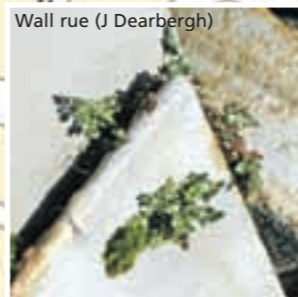
Keep to the river bank and after 40m leave the road and move onto coarse gravel to pass under the main road beside the river, where large puddles can collect. At this point the path is 2m wide but after 3.5m it narrows to 70cm at the end. ❷ The river is great for watching cormorants, herons, ducks and gulls. If you are lucky in the autumn and winter months you may see common sandpiper and redshank, taking advantage of the food-rich saltmarsh.

Come onto a gravel path through the grassland via a slight upward incline, where there may be some overhanging branches. ❸ The grassland is quite species-rich, despite being cut/trampled. In summer you can find the low-growing dandelion-like mouse-ear hawkweed, yellow flowered meadow vetchling, ox-eye daisy and purple self-heal. 100m further on there is some subsidence on the riverside by the flyover steps, where the path width narrows to 55cm. After 60m there is a minor incline.

From this point there is a great view of the Gorge but be aware that there are some overhanging branches and a small pipe protruding from the ground. ❹ This grassland is not quite so species-rich as the



Grasshopper (J Dearbergh)



Wall rue (J Dearbergh)



Grey wagtail (Darin Smith)

earlier section but is still interesting. The grass can be a bit muddy and wet after high tides. This is a good place to notice the gulls; lesser black-backed in the summer give way to mainly black-headed in the winter. Herring gulls are present all year round.

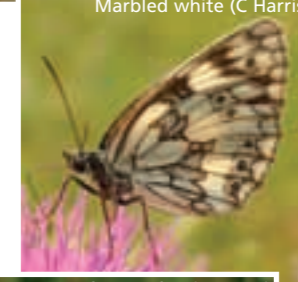
Follow the 90cm path around the flyover wall. 10m further on there are some overhanging branches and after 20m the gravel changes to a 1.5m wide tarmac path with a gradual incline for 10m. Turn left to go across the steel bridge over the river. There are 2 alternative routes here – the first left is a 65cm wide concrete footpath while the second left is a gradually increasing curve onto a bridge constructed of wooden slats and concrete. After 40m move onto repaired tarmac via a slight lip at the end of the bridge. 10m further on there is a gradual decline for 10m.

❺ On the quay here the old dock walls (and even Brunel's swing bridge) have many interesting plants growing on them: in summer look for purple loosestrife, pellitory-of-the-wall, hemlock water-dropwort and at any time the ferns polypody, hart's-tongue and wall rue. Look out for the black and white pied wagtail and possibly the lemon and charcoal grey wagtail.

After 30m there is a slight decline onto concrete with a path width



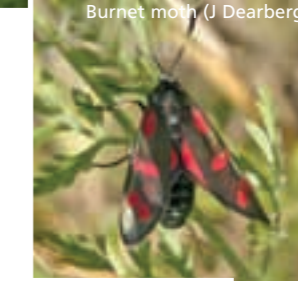
Cinnabar moth caterpillars (J Dearbergh)



Marbled white (C Harris)



Bird's-foot-trefoil (C Harris)



Burnet moth (J Dearbergh)



Large skipper (J Dearbergh)

of 1.5m. The surface is now tarmac with loose gravel and concrete. Keep to the right of the bridge pillar to pass under the swing bridge. 40m further on there is oil spillage onto the concrete surface (from the swing bridge mechanism) where the passageway is just over a metre wide. After 15m the width restriction ends as you come onto tarmac with loose gravel. ❻ This area supports a surprisingly good population of the uncommon fern grass and the continental introduction, finger grass. In the autumn a number of fungi appear.

After 15m there is a slight lip onto concrete over the steel bridge with a path width of 2.8m. The bridge is 50m long. At the end turn left onto variously textured paving stones.

❼ The grassland area, which runs alongside the river, is fairly species-rich, with plants including bird's-foot trefoil and common mouse-ear.

After 60m turn right and, after 5m move onto grass. Then move onto concrete slabs with wooden slats where there is a slight incline towards a low chain 10m further on, which can be stepped over or lifted overhead to move onto the tarmac pavement.

The next section needs care.

Turn right and up a 5cm high kerb onto the pavement. After 25m cross the road at a 10cm kerb towards the reduced kerb on